

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 7, 8, and 9, without prejudice.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

503 (3) 1. (amended) A method for antigen independent activation of T cells, in vivo, comprising contacting T cells in the absence of antigen with a combination of at least two cytokines selected from the group consisting of interleukin-2, interleukin-6, and tumor necrosis factor alpha, or functionally equivalent fragments thereof.

In claim 3, please delete "or 2".

In claim 4, please delete "of any one" and "to 3" and replace "claims" with --claim--.

In claim 5, please delete "any one of the preceding claims" and replace therefor --claim 1--.

In claim 6, please delete "any one of the preceding claims" and replace therefor --claim 1--.

In claim 11, please delete "9 or".

Please add the following claim:

B4 12. The method of claim 1 wherein said T cells are contacted with interleukin-2 and tumor necrosis factor.

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 were pending in this patent application, and claims 1-11 were rejected by the Office Action dated October 4, 2000. Claims 2, 7, 8, and 9 have been canceled herein without prejudice. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of the remaining claims be withdrawn upon reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and arguments that follow.